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1903

# Constitution and By-Laws

OF

GRAND LODGE

# Independent Labor League of America

Incorporated 1903



“Of what avail the plow or sail,  
Or land, or life, if freedom fail.”

—Emerson.

Articles of Incorporation.

Constitution and By-Laws of Local Lodges.

Form of Charter of Local Lodge.

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# Certificate of Incorporation.

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We, the undersigned persons, all of full age, citizens of the United States and residents of the State of New York, for the purpose of forming a corporation, under and by virtue of the provisions of Article II of Chapter 559 of the Laws of 1895, as amended, being Chapter XLIII of the General Laws of the State of New York, known as the Membership Corporation Law, do hereby make, sign and acknowledge the following certificate:

The particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are—

First. To protect independent workmen in their independence.

Second. To oppose strikes and lock-outs, boycotts and blacklists.

Third. To obtain higher wages, shorter hours and better conditions, by—

a. More intelligent application of our energies.

b. Harmonious co-operation with our employers.

c. Legitimate business methods.

Fourth. To furnish favorable conditions for training apprentices, in order that our boys may become successful workmen.

Fifth. To compel officers of the local, state and national government to enforce the laws and to compel Labor Unions and others to observe the laws.

Sixth. To protect members against unjust treatment from employers by due process of law.

Seventh. To provide an employment bureau for members.

Eighth. To provide means for members to guard against sickness and accident.

Ninth. To provide educational opportunities for all members.

Tenth. To provide in all lawful ways for the welfare of the members and the maintenance of their rights under the laws and the constitution of the United States.

The name of the proposed corporation is "Independent Labor League of America."

The territory in which its operations are to be principally conducted is the United States of America.

Its principal office is to be located in the City of Elmira, N. Y.

The number of directors shall be seven.

The names and places of residence of the persons to be its directors until its first annual meeting are:

Eugene Kies, 505 Pleasant St.,  
Elmira, N. Y.

Albert Rinker, 106 W. Water St.,  
Elmira, N. Y.

Emmett Hildebrant, 430 Pleasant St.,  
Elmira, N. Y.

Fred P. Jay, 110 State St., Elmira, N. Y.

Alois Schornberger, 58 Cotton St.,  
Elmira, N. Y.

Carl Koenigsmann, 58 Cotton St.,  
Elmira, N. Y.

Charles B. Swain, 153 High St.,  
Elmira, N. Y.

Eugene A. Kies,  
Albert Rinker,  
Emmett Hildebrant,  
Fred P. Jay,  
Alois Schornberger,  
Carl Koenigsmann,  
C. B. Swain.

STATE OF NEW YORK, } ss:  
COUNTY OF CHEMUNG. }

On this 14th day of March, 1903, before me, the subscriber, personally came Eugene Kies, Albert Rinker, Emmett Hildebrant, Fred P. Jay, Alois Schornberger, Carl Koenigsmann and Charles B. Swain, to me known to be the same persons described in and who executed the foregoing instrument and severally acknowledged that they executed the same.

CASSIUS A. PHILLIPS,  
Notary Public.

(Endorsed)

Certificate of Incorporation

—of—

**INDEPENDENT LABOR LEAGUE  
OF AMERICA.**

I do hereby approve of the within certificate of incorporation.

GERRIT A. FORBES,  
Justice Supreme Court.

State of New York,  
Office of Secretary of State.

Filed and Recorded March 19, 1903.

J. B. H. MONGIN,  
Deputy Secretary of State.

## CONSTITUTION

—OF—

INDEPENDENT LABOR LEAGUE  
OF AMERICA.

## ARTICLE I.

This body shall be known as the Independent Labor League of America.

## ARTICLE II.

The particular objects for which the corporation is formed are:

First. To protect independent workmen in their independence.

Second. To oppose strikes and lock-outs, boycotts and blacklists.

Third. To obtain higher wages, shorter hours and better conditions, by—

a. More intelligent application of our energies.

b. Harmonious co-operation with our employers.

c. Legitimate business methods.

Fourth. To furnish favorable conditions for training apprentices, in order that our boys may become successful workmen.

Fifth. To compel officers of the local, state and national governments to enforce the laws and to compel Labor Unions and others to observe the laws.

Sixth. To protect members against unjust treatment from employers by due process of law.

Seventh. To provide an employment bureau for members.

Eighth. To provide means for members to guard against sickness and accident.

Ninth. To provide educational opportunities for all members.

Tenth. To provide in all lawful ways, for the welfare of the members and the maintenance of their rights under the laws and the Constitution of the United States.

The territory in which its operations are to be principally conducted is the United States of America.

Its principal office is to be located in the city of Elmira, N. Y.

The number of its Directors shall be seven.

### ARTICLE III.

#### Members.

Section 1. The League shall consist of Honorary, Active and Junior Members, citizens of the United States of good moral character.

Sec. 2. Honorary Members shall consist of any desirable citizen having an interest in the social and industrial advancement of the community.

Sec. 3. Active Members shall be citizens of lawful age engaged in manual labor and possessing an average degree of efficiency in their respective pursuits.

Sec. 4. Junior Members must be apprentices to or students for the positions of Active Members.

Sec. 5. All members shall be entitled to the floor, but only Active Members shall be entitled to vote.

Sec. 6. Application for membership must be made in writing and approved by three members in good standing by their approval endorsed thereon. An initiation fee of \$2.00 must accompany the application for membership, as Active or Honorary Members, and \$1.00 for membership as Junior.

Sec. 7. Applications for membership must be read at a meeting of the members of the local lodge to which the person applies and referred for investigation to the Membership Committee, which shall consist of three members to be appointed by the President of said local lodge, who shall report to the next regular meeting.

Sec. 8. If the report of the Membership Committee is favorable a secret ballot shall be taken for the election or rejection of the candidate. If five or more ballots appear against his election the candidate shall be rejected and the initiation fee returned to him.

Sec. 9. Any person becoming three months in arrears in payment of his dues shall be notified by the Financial Secretary and if such arrearage is not paid within thirty days thereafter the President of said lodge may declare his membership forfeited.

Sec. 10. Any member whose membership may have been forfeited may be reinstated upon the payment of all arrears, by a two-thirds vote of all members present at a meeting of the members of his lodge.

## ARTICLE IV.

### Officers.

Section 1. The officers of this corporation shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer and seven Directors.

Sec. 2. The Directors shall be elected by the annual meeting of the members or representatives elected by them in convention in each year. At the first annual meeting of members in convention there shall be elected three Directors for one year, two Directors for two years and two Directors for three years, and thereafter at each annual meeting Directors shall be elected for three years to fill the places of those whose term shall then expire.

Sec. 3. The President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer shall be elected by the Board of Directors at the first annual meeting held after the annual meeting of members in each year and may be selected from the members of the Board of Directors or other members of the corporation.

Sec. 4. All Directors and Officers shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all conventions of the

members and meetings of the Board of Directors, to give the casting vote in case of a tie, sign all orders for the payment of money authorized by the Board of Directors and transact such other business as may properly pertain to such office, and he shall be ex-officio a member of all committees.

Sec. 6. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in case of his absence.

Sec. 7. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the minutes of the meetings of conventions and of the Board of Directors' meetings, have charge of the books, records and property of the Grand Lodge, pay such orders as shall be directed by the Board of Directors and signed by the President, and perform such other duties as may be directed by the Board of Directors.

He shall give such security for the performance of his duties as may be required by the Board of Directors.

Sec. 8. The Board of Directors may, by a two-thirds vote, suspend any officer of the Association for cause, which shall be stated in writing and served upon him immediately upon such suspension, whereupon a special meeting of the members of the lodge involved shall be called to consider the same, and the members at such meeting may re-instate or remove such officer by a three-fourths vote of all members present.

Sec. 9. In case of the death, resignation or removal from office of a Director, the Board of Directors may appoint his successor until the next annual meeting of the members.

Sec. 10. Honorary Office. There shall be a Past President elected at the first annual meeting whose position shall be an honorary one. After the second President of this League is elected, the retiring President each year shall become the Past President.

Sec. 11. The President of the Grand Lodge shall appoint a Finance Committee of three Directors to have general supervision of the finance of the League.

## ARTICLE V.

### Meetings.

Section 1. The annual meeting of the members or their chosen representatives in convention shall be held on the last Friday of March, in each year, for the election of Directors and the transaction of other business.

Sec. 2. Subordinate lodges are entitled to one Representative for each twenty-five members or fraction thereof, and one vote for every additional twenty-five members or majority fraction thereof. Said Representatives must present their credentials from their respective lodges before they will be entitled to a seat in the convention, and if so qualified they will be entitled to a vote in the election of Grand Lodge officers, and such other business as shall come before the convention.

Sec. 3. Credentials of delegates and alternates shall be executed in duplicate by the President and Secretary of the delegates' local lodge and one copy shall be sent to the Secretary-Treasurer of the

Grand Lodge at least ten days previous to the assembling of the convention. Credentials shall be sealed with the seal of the local lodge.

## ARTICLE IV.

### Grand and Local Lodges.

Section 1. The Officers and Board of Directors of the League shall constitute the Grand Lodge of this corporation and shall have power to grant charters to Local Lodges of members whenever seven or more persons apply for such charter and pay the fees and expense thereof to be fixed by said Grand Lodge, and furnish the security, prescribed by said Grand Lodge, for the payment of the share of dues and initiation fees payable to said Grand Lodge, and for the faithful and proper performance of the duties of the Officers of such Local Lodges.

Sec. 2. Such Local Lodges may receive members in the manner prescribed by this Constitution and such members, when so received, shall be members of this corporation and entitled to take part in all meetings of members of this corporation.

The Treasurer of such Local Lodge shall pay over to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Grand Lodge on or before March 1st and September 1st of each year, 10 per cent of all dues and one-half of all initiation fees paid into the Treasury of such Local Lodge.

The Grand Lodge shall have power to prescribe the Offices and Committees to be filled by the Local Lodges, to define their duties and to have the general oversight thereof.

Local Lodges may adopt by-laws not inconsistent with the provisions of the Certificate of Incorporation of this Corporation and the provisions of this Constitution and the rules and orders made by the Grand Lodge pursuant to this Constitution.

## ARTICLE VII.

### Conduct.

Section 1. The members of the League shall use arguments, correspondence, circulation of literature and logical enlightenment to obtain applicants for membership, but shall not use any undue influence of any kind for such purpose.

Sec. 2. The League Members shall not by any conspiracy of any kind whatever annoy any non-member of the League.

Sec. 3. No member shall take part in any strike or lockout, boycott or blacklist except to in a proper manner defend himself against such. Neither shall any person be admitted to membership who belongs to any organization which in any manner countenances strikes or lockouts, boycotts or blacklists, unless previous to admission he shall renounce such connection and affiliation, and any member of this League who unites himself with any such organization thereby severs his connection with this League, and it is so declared.

Sec. 4. This League shall not be used in any manner to further the interests of politics except in so far as to encourage the enactment of laws for the benefit or

protection of its members and to compel the execution of such laws, nor shall it be used for religious purposes.

### ARTICLE VIII.

The seal of the Grand Lodge of this corporation shall consist of the emblem, an eagle upon a shield surrounded by the words, "Independent Labor League of America, Grand Lodge, Incorporated 1903."

### ARTICLE IX.

#### Motto.

The motto of this League shall be "Of what avail the plow or sail, or land, or life, if freedom fail.—Emerson."

### ARTICLE X.

#### Meeting of Directors.

Section 1. A regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall be held on the first Monday of each month at 8 p. m.

Sec. 2. A special meeting may be called at any time by the President, and shall be called by him upon the written request of three directors. Notice of special meetings of the Board shall be given by the Secretary-Treasurer.

Sec. 3. No less than four members shall constitute a quorum of the Directors for the transaction of business.

## ARTICLE XI.

## Amendment of Constitution.

Section 1. Article II and Article VII of this constitution are not subject to amendment.

Sec. 2. This constitution, excepting Article II and VII, may be amended in the manner following:

Amendments shall be submitted to the Grand Lodge which shall submit same to all local lodges who shall give all members ten days' written notice in advance of meeting at which vote shall be taken; a two-thirds vote of each lodge shall be necessary to pass said amendment in that lodge and it shall require the approval of two-thirds of all lodges to pass said amendment. Having passed the above requirements the Grand Lodge shall declare said amendment a part of this constitution.

## By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Independent Labor League of America.

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### ARTICLE I.

#### Officers of Local Lodges.

Section 1. The officers of subordinate Lodges shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Past President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected at the annual meeting of members and shall hold office until successors are elected and qualified; also a Marshal, Guard and Sentinel, who shall be appointed by the President.

### ARTICLE II.

#### Duties of Officers of Local Lodges.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings of the members and to give the casting vote in case of tie, sign all orders for the payment of money and transact such other business as may properly pertain to such office; and he shall be ex-officio a member of all committees.

Sec. 2. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in the President's absence.

Sec. 3. The Past President shall assist in the initiatory work, and in the absence of the president and vice-president shall preside at regular meetings.

Sec. 4. The Recording Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meetings and have charge of the books and records of the League.

Sec. 5. The Financial Secretary shall keep a correct record of all money received. He shall turn all money received at each meeting over to the Treasurer before the close of the meeting, taking a receipt for the same.

Sec. 6. The Treasurer shall, if so required by his League, give a bond for the safe keeping of all money in his possession. He shall not pay out any money except on orders signed by the President and Financial Secretary of his Lodge.

### ARTICLE III.

#### Committee of Local Lodges.

Section 1. The President shall appoint a Finance Committee to consist of three members whose duty it shall be to supervise the financial conduct of the Lodge; recommending ways and means for the proper financing of the Lodge. The said Finance Committee shall examine and report to the Lodge semi-annually on the books and accounts of the Treasurer and on the financial condition of the Lodge, and report to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Grand Lodge.

Sec. 2. The President shall appoint a Membership Committee consisting of three

persons whose duty it shall be to increase the membership of the Lodge and pass on the fitness of any applicants for membership, unless a Special Committee is appointed for the particular purpose.

## ARTICLE IV.

### Charters of Local Lodges.

A charter may be granted to seven or more persons duly qualified as set forth in the constitution of the Grand Lodge who shall subscribe to a copy of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge hereof and acknowledge the same, who shall appear to the directors of the Grand Lodge to be capable of sustaining the objects of this League and who shall pay the Secretary-Treasurer of the Grand Lodge a charter fee of \$10.00, besides the expenses of procuring the engrossing of the charter, the necessary expenses of an examination of the applicants as to fitness, and charges for necessary supplies, such facts to be determined by the Board of Directors of this corporation.

## ARTICLE V.

Any member of a local lodge of this League in good standing who may be deprived in any way of his right to work for any one with whom he has made a mutually satisfactory arrangement may appeal to his local lodge which shall take such action through its officers as shall be in accord with the objects of this corporation, looking to the relief of such member. In case an adjustment cannot be arrived at within a reasonable time the said local lodge shall

lay the matter before the Grand Lodge which shall by all consistent means protect and defend such member under the 14th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

## ARTICLE VI.

Each member shall be entitled to receive a card or book which shall be a certificate of membership to be issued under proper regulations.

## ARTICLE VII.

The insurance, educational and other objects of the League shall be developed as rapidly as possible.

## ARTICLE VIII.

Each local lodge shall have a seal which shall be a copy of the Grand Lodge seal with the addition of the name or title of such local lodge.

## ARTICLE IX.

Roberts' Rules of Order shall govern where not in conflict with this Constitution and By-Laws.

## ARTICLE X.

### Amendments.

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds majority of all the members present at a convention of the members, or at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

## ARTICLE XI.

The order of business of the annual convention of the League shall be as follows:

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Reading minutes of previous convention.
4. Appointment or election of Committees.
5. Reports of Officers.
6. Reports of Lodges.
7. Reports of Committees.
8. Unfinished business.
9. New business.
10. Good and welfare of the order.
11. Election of officers.
12. Adjournment.

## FORM OF CHARTER.

CHARTER OF..... LODGE,  
NO.....

This is to Certify that

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have duly formed an organization in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of the Independent Labor League of America and are hereby granted a charter as .....Lodge, Number....., of Independent Labor League of America and as such are empowered to initiate members, elect officers and participate in full membership in said Independent Labor League of America in and subject to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of said League.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we, the Officers and Directors of the Independent Labor League of America, have hereunto

set our hands, and have caused the seal  
of the Grand Lodge to be hereto affixed  
this.....day of.....

..... President.

..... Vice-President.

..... Secretary-Treasurer.

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Directors.

## FORM OF CONSTITUTION FOR LOCAL LODGES.

CONSTITUTION OF.....LOCAL  
LODGE, NO.....

Independent Labor League of America.

### ARTICLE I.

This organization shall be known as  
.....Local Lodge, No.....,  
Independent Labor League of America.

### ARTICLE II.

This.....Lodge, No.....,  
hereby approves, accepts and adopts the  
Constitution of the Grand Lodge of  
Independent Labor League of America.

## FORM OF BY-LAWS FOR LOCAL LODGES.

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### ARTICLE I.

#### Officers.

Section 1. The officers of this lodge shall be—a President, Vice-President, Past President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer, who shall be elected at the annual meeting of members of this lodge and shall hold office until their successors are elected and qualified. Also a Marshal, Guard and Sentinel, who shall be appointed by the President.

### ARTICLE II.

#### Duties of Officers.

Section 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all of the meetings of the members and to give the casting vote in case of tie, sign all orders for the payment of money and transact such other business as may properly pertain to such office; and he shall be ex-officio a member of all committees.

Sec. 2. The Vice-President shall perform the duties of the President in case of absence.

See Grand Lodge By-Laws for duties of other officers.

## ARTICLE III.

## Members.

Section 1. This lodge shall consist of Honorary, Active and Junior Members, citizens of the United States of good moral character.

Sec. 2. Honorary members shall consist of any desirable citizens having an interest in the social and industrial advancement of the community.

Sec. 3. Active members shall be citizens of lawful age engaged in manual labor and possessing an average degree of efficiency in their respective pursuits.

Sec. 4. Junior members must be apprentices or students to the positions of Active members.

## ARTICLE IV.

## Meetings.

Section 1. A regular meeting of members shall be held on the first and third .....of each month.

Sec. 2. Special meetings of the members shall be convened by the President upon the written request of five members; notice of such meeting stating the time, place and business to be transacted shall be given to each member by the Secretary at least one day before the time of such meeting. In case such special meeting is called to consider the suspension of the President or in case he should refuse to call such meeting, the same shall be called by the Secretary.

Sec. 3. Not less than ten members shall be required for a quorum at a regular or special meeting, except that a majority of the members shall be sufficient for a quorum.

## ARTICLE V.

### Dues.

Each Active Member shall pay fifty cents per month and each Junior Member twenty-five cents per month dues.

## ARTICLE VI.

### Rules of Order.

Roberts' "Rules of Order" shall govern in meetings of this lodge.

## ARTICLE VII.

### Seal.

The seal of this lodge shall be an emblem of an eagle upon a shield surrounded by the words, "Independent Labor League of America, .....Local Lodge, No....."

## ARTICLE VIII.

### Amendments.

These By-Laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Lodge.

## ARTICLE IX.

**Order of Business.**

1. Call to order.
2. Roll call.
3. Reading the minutes of previous meeting.
4. Propositions for membership.
5. Reference of applications to membership committee.
6. Reports on Applications.
7. Election of candidates.
8. Initiation.
9. Recess. Payment of dues.
10. Unfinished business.
11. Report of committees, standing or special.
12. New business.
13. Communications and bills.
14. Are there any members out of employment or opportunities open?
15. Good and welfare of the order.
16. Receipts and expenditures.
17. Adjournment.











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